



GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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COME OUT AND PLAY IN MIAMI

(MIAMI) – The world's most famous fun in the sun playground, Greater Miami, lures visitors year round with perfect weather and award-winning beaches, whimsical architecture and a celebrity-driven nightlife scene that grooves to an only-in-Miami beat. On any given day, however, many visitors to this urban tropical resort are far more interested in where the fish are hiding out than in J Lo's purported whereabouts. In perfect synch with all of its other charms, Miami is a sought after international recreation destination by virtue of its mild climate and unrivaled water access.

In 2008, Miami ranked #1 on Forbes.com's America's Cleanest Cities list, and the **#3 Fittest City** by *Self Magazine* in 2005, Miami caters to action-oriented visitors from around the globe with some of the world's top golf, tennis and sporting facilities. Add sparkling waters that are a magnet for boating enthusiasts, fishermen, divers and water sports aficionados to the equation and it is easy to see why Miami is a number one choice for active travelers of all ages and skill levels.

Flanked by the mighty Atlantic and the beautiful azure waters of Biscayne Bay, and warmed by yearly average temperatures in the 70s, visitors who want to get their feet wet never need look far to organize a day on the bay. Meanwhile, landlubbers have plenty of onshore activities from which to choose. In the mood for afternoon tee? Courses created by the world's top designers make Miami a golfer's paradise. Tennis more your racket? The Crandon Tennis Center hosts the Sony Ericsson Open each March, while the rest of the year its immaculate courts are open to the public, along with innumerable other well-kept facilities throughout Miami. Bicycle and jogging trails, beachfront yoga classes, even ultra-light airplane rides beckon the playful child within.

Water, Water Everywhere

Whether it is from the deck of a 50-foot luxury yacht out for a pleasure cruise on Biscayne Bay or astride a rented wave runner, Miami looks magnificent from the water. Opportunities to experience this privileged vantage abound, with multitudes of marinas and waterfront concessions offering visitors dozens of different ways to experience the calm, tranquil waters of Biscayne Bay and the ocean beyond.

If you have a passion for fishing, **Haulover Beach Marina**, home to the largest charter/drift fishing fleet in South Florida is probably on your vacation agenda. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterway in Sunny Isles Beach, the 180-acre Haulover Beach Park also houses a popular kite rental concession, bicycle rentals, a 9-hole golf course and tennis courts, with an underground walkway leading directly to world-renowned Haulover Beach. Those who want to pilot their own course through the waters will find plenty of choices at Miami's many marinas that dot the coastal landscape. Here, knowledgeable old salts are quick to advise where the breezes are blowing and the fish are hiding. **Black Point Marina** in Homestead provides access to Biscayne National Park's treasure trove of wildlife, while **Dinner Key Marina** in Coconut Grove and the idyllic **Matheson Hammock** in Coral Gables have popular cityside access and amenities.

Want instant gratification? Rent a motorboat for a few hours and zip around Biscayne Bay, exploring uninhabited islands and communing with local wildlife, including dolphins, sea turtles and sea birds. Looking for a more long-term commitment? Stop by the **Miami Beach Marina** and charter a sailboat, complete with captain and provisions if you prefer, and set course for the Florida Keys or Bahamas. A very special community is served by **Shake-A-Leg Miami**, South Florida's only adaptive sailing program. Adults and youths with disabilities and at-risk youth, enjoy sailing programs, while events like the World Blind Sailing Championships event bring international attention to this important non-profit organization.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the city's love affair with the waters that surround it is the yearly **Miami International Boat Show**. Taking place at the Miami Beach Convention Center and other locations for over 60 years, the show brings together more than 2,300 of the world's leading marine industry manufacturers to display the newest powerboats, engines and accessories. The latest in sailboats and related accessories are on display at **Strictly Sail Miami**, the sail-only portion of the show.

Parasailing is a great way to see the city from above, while Key Biscayne's **Hobie Beach** gets its name from the proliferation of Hobie catamarans and other multi-hull

sailboats that push off daily from the popular beachside launch. Thrill seekers have many avenues for adventure: surfers catch waves at **South Pointe Park** at the tip of South Beach and points further north, while **kitesailing**, a relatively new sport is catching on like wildfire all over Miami. Requiring equal parts balance, skill and nerve, kitesailing is the Gen X version of windsurfing. Kite boarders are pulled through the surf and sky, riding the wind and manipulating a massive kite in to skim the water's surface at high speed. One moment the board is on the water's surface, and the next moment the boarder is aloft, hang-gliding over boats. Instruction and equipment rentals for both windsurfing and kitesailing are available at locations throughout Miami.

Divers and snorkelers are spoiled with the choice of a plethora of natural reefs, as well as one of the largest artificial-reef programs in the world. Fish flock to the more than 30 ships, tanks, concrete, limestone and other structures that have been sunk over the past 20 years off Miami's coast, as far south as Florida City and north to Sunny Isles Beach. Most are located just a few miles offshore, in less than 130 feet of water, providing great diving for all levels. One of the most popular routes is the **Wreck Trek**, located off Miami Beach, just north of the Art Deco District. Here, divers can explore the 85-foot tug *Patricia*, the 100-foot steel fishing vessel *Miss Karlina*, and an old radio antenna welded into 19 pyramids. In shallow waters off of Key Biscayne, the *Half Moon* and *Germania* form a fabulous underwater archeological preserve. Natural reefs are also found off Key Biscayne, Miami Beach, Surfside and Sunny Isles Beach.

Kayaking is another great way to navigate the waters of Biscayne Bay and Miami's inland waterways. The Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of naturalist-led **eco-adventures**. Key Biscayne is the setting for a wide range of tours -- with hammock walks, kayak, snorkel and canoe trips, and bike trips for all age groups and skill levels. Canoe trips are popular -- and there seems to be one for every conceivable interest -- along the Coral Gables Waterway, at sunrise, sunset or by moonlight, along the historic Oleta River and through hidden waterways of Key Biscayne. For more information, visit www.MiamiDade.gov/parks/ecoadventures.asp. For those with time to venture further from the city, there's the option of traveling along **Everglade National Park's 99-mile Wilderness Waterway**. Adventurers can paddle all day without seeing another soul, and spend the night camping out on remote chickees -- raised platform campsites accessible only by water.

Tee Time

Golfers from all four corners of the globe are making a beeline for Miami Beach, eager to check out the **Miami Beach Golf Club**. Designed by Arthur Hills, one of America's foremost golf course designers, the course features paspalum turf, the perfect ecological answer to Miami Beach's sand-and-salt-heavy topsoil. The challenging course features plenty of hazards, however the wide fairways, groomed roughs and gentle breezes make a trip to these links memorable.

Golf is the main event at the **Doral Golf Resort and Spa**, which won *Travel + Leisure Golf* magazine's 2006 "Best of Florida Golf Resort" award and hosted the 2008 World Golf Championship. The 650-acre resort offers five 18-hole championship golf courses that can cater to golfers at every skill level. The renowned Blue Monster, host to the PGA Tour since 1962, is considered one of the most difficult courses in the world. The Greg Norman-designed "Great White," opened for play in 2000, features the only triple green in South Florida -- holes 11, 13 and 17 share a putting surface of 25,000 square feet. The Silver, Gold and Red (host to LPGA event) Courses complete the equation, while professional instruction provided by the Jim McLean Golf School is considered among the tops in the nation.

Fisher Island, a private residential and resort community just a half mile south of Miami Beach, is one of Miami's most exclusive environments, accessible only by boat, helicopter, seaplane or auto ferry. Here, golfers can luxuriate at **The Links at The Fisher Island Club** on a par-35, nine-hole golf course, designed by architect P. B. Dye. **Don Shula's Hotel & Golf Club** in Miami Lakes boasts two tree-lined courses complemented by native plants and wildlife that are accessible to all levels of golfers. The landmark **Biltmore Hotel** in Coral Gables has its own 18-hole, par-71 course, which first opened in 1925 and has since been redesigned by renowned golf architect Donald Ross with a \$5 million upgrade completed in 2007. In Aventura, the 300-acre **Turnberry Isle Resort and Club** is a world unto itself. Golfers can choose from two Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed courses, notable for graceful fairways and deceitfully tranquil hazards and traps.

Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department operates several top-notch public golf courses, including the **Crandon Park Golf Course**. With water views, the course is considered one of the most beautiful and difficult par-72 courses in the state and has been rated in the top 10 courses by *Golfweek* and one of America's top 75 upscale courses by *Golf Digest*. Other public courses include **International Links** and **Miccosukee Golf Club** in South Dade and **Greynolds** and **Haulover**, further north.

Tennis Anyone?

Tennis ranks with golf as a top recreational pursuit in Miami. Indeed, many of the world's top ranked players got their starts early through youth tennis programs at the many fine public facilities throughout the county. Foremost among them, the **Crandon Park Tennis Center** is home to the U.S. Tennis Association's Player Development Program and the National Junior Tennis Team. The Sony Ericsson Open draws thousands of visitors when it plays host to the world's top players every March.

Over 50 locations operated by the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department offer more than 200 courts to serve every corner of the county with amenities that encompass private and group lessons, courts lit for nighttime play and pro shops offering equipment rentals and sales. People with disabilities can also enjoy playing wheelchair tennis at various locations.

For visitors who stay at one of Miami's luxury resorts, there is no need to leave the premises to enjoy top-notch tennis facilities and instruction. Among the many upscale properties that make scheduling court time as easy as ordering room service: **Grove Isle Resort** in Coconut Grove, the **Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne**, the **Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club**, the **Mandarin Oriental**, and **Acqualina Resort & Spa** in Sunny Isles Beach.

At the Races

Those with a "need for speed" will want to check out the races at the **Homestead-Miami Speedway**. Dedicated in 1995, the 1.5-mile oval race track on 600 acres has grandstands that hold 65,000 and a Champions Club Tower that has 16 luxury skyboxes. The speedway is home to the Ford Championship Weekend, where NASCAR crowns its season champions. Its motorsports history at Homestead-Miami Speedway in 2009, as HMS becomes the first speedway ever to host all of North America's premier motorsports championships: the IndyCar, Firestone Indy Lights and Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series on Oct. 9-10; and NASCAR's Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Camping World Truck Series Nov. 20-22.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is an independent not-for-profit sales and marketing organization whose mission is to attract visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches for leisure, business and conventions. For a vacation guide, visit our website at www.MiamiAndBeaches.com or call 1-888-76-Miami (US/Canada only) or 305-447-7777. To reach the GMCVB offices dial 305-539-3000. Meeting planners may call 1-800-933-8448 (US/Canada only) or 305-539-3071 or visit www.MiamiMeetings.com.

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Updated: April 2009